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(b) the number of acting and temporary. Deputy Collectors now in service; and

(c) if the present number is more than 22, the average number of temporary and acting posts with reference to which a permanent addition was made to the cadre in 1911, and also more than 43, the average number of similar posts, during the three years ending December 1924, the steps that have been taken to add to the cadre of Deputy Collectors and reduce the period of acting service as Deputy Collectors; and, if no steps have been taken, why not?

A.—(*a*) The question was examined last year and it was considered that the increased demand was temporary and would not justify a permanent addition to the cadre.

(*b*) 64.

(*c*) The whole question is again under examination.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"If the hon. the Revenue Member is in a position to say, may I ask him how long it will take to pass orders?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"It is very difficult to say. As the hon. Member will see, the question was taken up last year and a conclusion was arrived at. But it seemed to me, on the figures, that the question should be examined again. I have not yet seen the results of the re-examination."

Strength of the cadre of Deputy Collectors.

* 2342 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the strength of the cadre of Deputy Collectors has still further been reduced from 160 in 1921 and 136 in 1924 and, if so, to what extent; and

(*b*) the number of permanent vacancies in the cadre of Deputy Collectors which are yet unfilled and the date from which they have been left vacant with reasons therefor?

A.—(*a*) The present strength of the cadre is 126.

(*b*) There are now six permanent vacancies. One of them arose in January last, another in June, three in July and the sixth in August. They will be filled very shortly.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"The present strength of the cadre is 126. It was 136 in 1924. May I know the reasons for the reduction, while on the other hand there was every reason to add to the strength."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"If the hon. Member wants a fuller statement, I must ask him to put down a separate question. As far as I can recollect, the chief reason was the abolition of the leave reserve as a measure of retrenchment."